

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Claims 1-32 were last presented for examination. Claims 33-93 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 and 4 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 are amended herein.

Claim Objections

According to the Office Action under allowable subject matter, claims 5, 6, 22 and 30-32 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 5 is amended herein to include expressly each element recited in its base claim, claim 1, and its intervening claim, claim 4, and thus is allowable. Applicant's amendment of claim 5 should not be taken as acquiescence to the rejection of claim 1 and claim 4.

Claim 6 is amended herein to depend from amended allowable independent claim 5 and thus is allowable.

Claim 22 depends from claim 21 which depends from claim 7 which is amended herein to depend from amended allowable independent claim 5 and thus is allowable.

Claim 30 depends from claim 7 which is amended herein to depend from amended allowable independent claim 5 and thus is allowable.

Claims 31 and 32 depend from claim 30 and thus is allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-21 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,818,723 to Dimitri (hereinafter referred to as "Dimitri"). The rejection of claims 1 and 4 is moot since those claims are canceled without prejudice.

Amended claims 2 and 7 depend from amended allowable independent claim 5 and hence are allowable.

Dependent claims 8-21 and 23-27 depend directly or indirectly from claim 7 which depends from amended allowable independent claim 5 and hence include each element recited in claims 5 and 7 and thus are allowable.

Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 7-21 and 23-27 are not anticipated in view of the applied reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that that claims 1, 2, 4, 7-21 and 23-27 are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitri in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,638,347 to Baca (hereinafter referred to as "Baca").

Dependent claim 28 depends from claim 7 which is amended herein to depend from amended allowable independent claim 5 and thus is allowable.

Dependent claim 29 depends from claim 28 which depends from claim 7 which is amended herein to depend from amended allowable independent claim 5 and thus is allowable.

Amended dependent claim 3 depends from amended allowable independent claim 5 and thus is allowable.

Accordingly, claims 3, 28 and 29 are not anticipated in view of the applied reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that that claims 2, 28 and 29 are allowable.

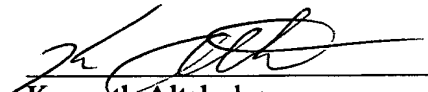
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Authorization To Charge Necessary Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional necessary fees associated with this submission, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/07/05


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